

The GRANGE

Issue: 70

November

1997



LOOK TO SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS AS A BUSY YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE



The last two months of 1997 promise to be busy ones at The Grange. We also look forward with much excitement to the appointment of a staff person at the assistant curatorial level to design and implement programming and to oversee the conservation of the house. We hope the hiring process will be completed by the new year. This will be a great way to start 1998 which will be a special year for The Grange. It is the 25th anniversary of the restoration of The Grange!

November 25th, 1997 will be a busy day. We shall be serving Grange shortbread and cider in George Weston Hall for the large crowds of shoppers and Grangers eager to take advantage of the discounts in the shops during the Members' Shopping Day. Having shopped and worked ourselves to exhaustion, we will gather in the music room to wine and dine and to enjoy Diane Reid's 19th century fashion show.

Thanks to the Junior Committee and consultant Joan Watson, the house will be decorated on December 1st. Do invite your friends and family to visit The Grange during the festive season, for the house is especially beautiful. Sunday, December 7th is the date for our annual Christmas concert featuring the Canadian Dance Tapestry and on Tuesday, December 9th the Executive is hosting a party for all Grange volunteers. We look forward to seeing you at both events. December 15th is our annual Open House for the AGO staff. If that isn't enough, Daily Pursuits, the Grade 7 and 8 education program for inner city schools and Sundays at the AGO are ongoing.

Sincere thanks and congratulations for a job well done to all volunteers who have so generously and willingly given of their time and expertise in the last months when we have been without staff. On your behalf, I would especially like to thank Marilyn Litvak for the excellent lecture series, *Toronto Talks*, our great cooks, Sally Lowrey and Jane Ash for all the delicious meals and desserts, Nancy Lofft for the wonderful Grange shortbread, Elvira Putrus for arranging Family Sundays and the Christmas concert at the Grange and Pat Robertson for organizing Daily Pursuits. Last but not least, thank you to the Executive and the Day Captains who make everything happen. May your holiday season be happy and healthy.

- Flo Morson, Chair, The Grange

ENJOY AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AT THE GRANGE

What better way to get into the spirit of the festive season than a visit to The Grange! Experience Christmas past, long past, when Toronto was the little colonial town of York, when skaters and ice boats glided on the frozen bay, sleigh bells tinkled in the crisp, clean air, and there was always snow in December. The traditional pine boughs, cedar swags and red velvet ribbon will all be in place by December 2 and the volunteers at The Grange look forward to greeting everyone.



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Volunteer Committee
1997-98**

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REMINDER

Please submit your news articles
for the next
Grange Newsletter by
DECEMBER 30th, 1997.

COMING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SUPPERS

Date: Tuesday, November 25, 1997 at 5:30 p.m.

Speaker: Diane Reid

Topic: A Fashion Parade and discussion highlighting the
mid-nineteenth century.

MEMBERS SHOPPING DAY AT GALLERY SHOP

Date: Tuesday, November 25, 1997

15% discount on jewellery

20% discount on all other items

Special exhibition and sale, *Artful Giving*, at Art Rental and Sales

DECORATING THE GRANGE

Date: December 1, 1997

Again this year the AGO Junior committee will decorate the house for
the Christmas season. Grange Interpreters can look forward to people
making a special visit to the house during the holiday season.

THE GRANGE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Date: Sunday, December 7, 1997 at 4:30 pm

Featuring: CANADIAN DANCE TAPESTRY

For merry music making complete with singers and fiddlers. This folk
music group has represented Canada at many international festivals.

Traditional Grange shortbread and hot, mulled apple juice will be served.

Place: The Grange Music Room

Tickets: \$15.00 (includes GST)

To order please call Program Registration at 979-6608

THE GRANGE VOLUNTEER SEASONAL SOCIAL

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 1997 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Grange Executive will be hosting a wine and cheese Christmas
Party for all Grange volunteers.

GRANGE ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE FOR AGO STAFF

Date: December 15, 1997 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Grange will again play host to the annual AGO staff event.

FAMILY SUNDAYS AT THE GRANGE

The Grange continues Family Sunday events.

There will be special baking demonstrations, pinpricking, mystery
objects and treasure hunts. Young children will have the opportunity to
dress-up in period costume and listen to stories by Mary Lou Zingrone, a
Wednesday afternoon volunteer.

FOR THE RECORD

Volunteer training and social events that fell between our
newsletter issues.

October 18, 1997 at 9:30 am

Cook's Refresher and Helpful Hints

Organized by Anna Patrick

October 28, 1997 at 5:30 pm

Volunteer training supper featuring Margaret Machell

Topic: Interpreting The Grange

November 5, 1997 at 6:00pm

A Haring Happening

Volunteers gathered for a dinner at the Agora restaurant
following by a tour of the Haring exhibit.

AUTUMN FIRES

by Anna Patrick

With autumn comes falling leaves, the smell of woodsmoke and the glowing fire to light those dull days.

Visitors are charmed by our fires and curious about our brick oven and its construction. They want to know if the bake room fires are used to heat the house. No, the fires here are solely for the purpose of cooking, and only incidentally do they heat the room.

They inquire about a chimney for the bake oven and are surprised to learn that it is a slot at the front of the oven which is effectively sealed when the oven door is in place. The oven is lined with a very soft brick which was retrieved from the site of the old Cobourg railroad station when it was demolished. They are made of a clay which absorbs and retains the heat very well. Texts tell us that you can get up to five bakings from one heating of such an oven by starting with items requiring the highest heat first and working your way down to using it as a slow-cooker overnight for something like baked beans or oatmeal. I believe Ruth Keene used to get at least three bakings on occasion.

People also seem surprised to learn that we have to shovel the coals and ash out of the oven when it is hot enough to bake, having thought there would be some connection directly between the oven and the hearth, or perhaps to some subterranean ash pit. They like to be shown the rake and shovels we use for this.

Another frequent query is what type of wood we use and we can always say that it is mixed, seasoned hardwood. Seasoned means cut, split, and air-dried over a period of time, in other words, it is no longer green, or freshly cut, wood. Our current supplier has informed us that it may contain ash, beech, white oak, maple, red cherry and possibly red oak. All these woods are relatively difficult to start, but possess excellent cooking and heating qualities, make few sparks and little smoke, and impart good flavour to the food cooked, with maple and cherry producing excellent flavour as do all fruit woods. The difficulty in starting is somewhat overcome by our laying a fire in the still-warm oven at the end of the day. This further dries the wood and warms it, making starting an easy and fast process in the morning. Needless to say, the lack of smoke and sparks are almost essential in our operation.

These are some of the questions we are asked and the answers we have found during our years in the bake room. If anyone has other questions or answers we should all know about, please keep us informed.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

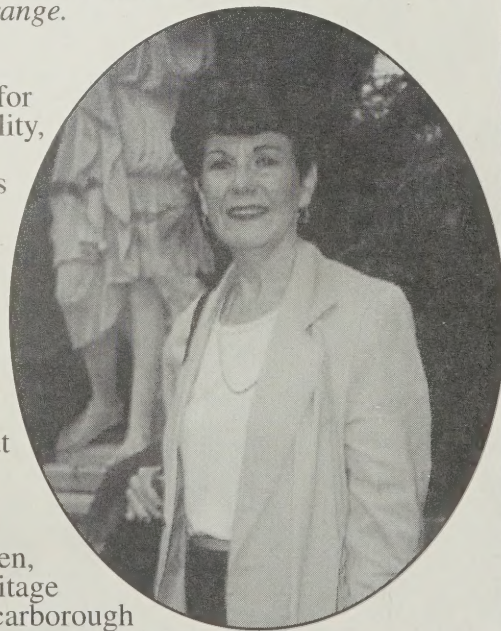
DIANE REID

Diane Reid is a Grange Interpreter, who volunteers on Sundays. Fellow Grange volunteers, Francine Dion-Holdom, Linda Tyrrell (Wednesday evenings) and Elizabeth Chish-Graham (Wednesday bridge-shift) will model the period costumes for the fashion show on Nov. 25 at The Grange. The following is a brief autobiography of Diane Reid

"My interest in costumes was a personal one, simply making outfits for my-self to wear. Once the fashion show became fully my responsibility, I concentrated in depth on the construction, colour and style of the different eras. I sew period costumes as well as collect vintage outfits and accessories. I added music to the shows to further enhance the mood of each era. This led to a running commentary associating each outfit to its era. Selected models would act accordingly to the etiquette and attitude of the era.

In 1994, I was asked to do my first Fashion Parade for Heritage Showcase at Sherway Gardens. The previous organizer had stepped down and so, with about six models and a lot of enthusiasm, I presented my first show. In April of the same year, the area of Thornhill was celebrating its 200th anniversary and I was asked to put together a fashion show of yesteryear from the period ranging from 1794-1950.

In 1995, Sherway Gardens was once again the site for the Heritage Showcase and again I was asked to present a show. Since then, my fashion shows are becoming larger and more organized. The Heritage Showcase was moved to Scarborough Town Centre in 1996 and as Scarborough was celebrating its 200th anniversary, my show was highlighted at the bicentennial and again this year. In September of 1996 at the Fall Fair event held at the Agincourt Community Centre, I experimented by adding new eras to the presentation. My show now encompasses the period from the 1790s to the 1990s having increased my models from the original six to twenty-eight in total."



The better way



The first part of Toronto's street railway was opened on Sept. 10, 1861, "creating much interest and excitement in this city and Yorkville," said the *Globe*. Some notes:

- The run was scheduled for 1 p.m., starting at the town hall of Yorkville and ending at Toronto's St. Lawrence Hall. Yorkville residents hung flags and banners from every window. "Seldom has the quiet village seen such a bustle and excitement, and when the first car came out of the depot and was placed on the track, a grand cheer arose from the assembled multitude."
- After the tracks were cleared, the streetcar departed at 4 p.m. Passengers included Yorkville's reeve and councillors and several politicians from Toronto. Perched on the roof, the Artillery Band played spirited airs.
- The inaugural run was intended to be for politicians only, but some of the crowd had rushed inside the streetcar and refused every remonstrance to leave.
- The car derailed at the Toronto border. The good-natured passengers alighted and shoved it back on to the tracks. This happened several more times -- a few of the switches were unfinished.
- When the streetcar passed Engine Hall No. 2, firefighters emerged and gave the vehicle three rousing cheers and a "tiger." When it reached the St. Lawrence Hall, the band played the national anthem.
- The *Globe* reminded readers that it had supported a Yonge Street transit line. "It may be mentioned," it added, "that Mr. Williamson ran his 'buses' yesterday in opposition to the railway and it is stated that he will continue the competition."

Globe and Mail newspaper September 10, 1997
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H i g h l y **Recommended** **Reading:**

The English Woman in America

by Isabella Lucy Bird
(1831-1904), first published 1856. (see Grange Library 973.6 BIR)

This is a very readable, often amusing account of a tour of the Eastern U.S. and Canada in 1854. The author describes the people she meets and the places she visits with intelligence, humour and genuine appreciation.

Her description of the journey to Chicago by the "cars" (train) is reminiscent

of almost any western movie. The portraits of the Americans on the Lake Champlain ferry are straight out of Mark Twain or *Showboat*. New York city in 1854 was apparently as unique and fascinating as the New York of today.

According to editor Andrew Hall Clark, of the University of Wisconsin, Isabella took the trip after an illness as a way of restoring her "health and spirits". Judging from the dangers and discomforts she endured, she would have been better spending the time at a sea-side resort in Britain. But, then of course, we would not have this delightful book, or know this remarkable woman.

- Avril Stringer, Grange Research

The Grange Research does not know where the following letter came from or who Kate Hamilton was. The contents of this letter gives us much insight into the lives of the Boultons, if one assumes it is genuine.

Boulton Grange York 7 March 1834

My dear Grandmamma,

I have news for you. Mamma, Papa and I are no longer living in York - we now live in Toronto. No we haven't moved. Just yesterday the town of York became the city of Toronto and now we'll just have to become accustomed to calling York - Toronto. It will not be too difficult for Papa, Mamma & me as we have been here such a short time.

Mamma and Papa have gone off to New York to visit Aunt Rosetta and I have now the pleasure of writing you from the house of Mr. D'Arcy Boulton. The Boultons live in a house fit for a prince. Mrs. Boulton and Emma (one of their daughters) have been terribly kind to me. Emma and I are the same age. Grandmamma, I can hardly believe it but I'm going to be sixteen years old next month. By the time you receive this letter my birthday will have come and gone. I'm quite grown up now. In fact, Emma and I are permitted to sup in the dining room, and were even invited to a gay dinner party of 20 given on the occasion of the arrival of two brides. Neither of the brides were [sic] comely but the officers looked so handsome in their uniforms. One of the officers was indeed dashing. I have seen very few Indians but our officer has met them on many occasions. He informed us that the female Indians go by the name of Squaw and that they are very attractive dressed up in their finery. Their jet black hair is parted in the centre & is not suffered to grow very long but just down the neck & their foreheads appear as if they were polished. We had venison that evening & it tastes like sweet pork.

Em took me out to the stable to show me the wonderful Landau that her Papa has. Mr. Boulton has promised to take me out for a drive in it when the roads get better. The snow is melting fast and the roads are hardly fit for a carriage as grand as the Boulton's have. What think ye Grandmamma of your granddaughter riding about the city of Toronto in a Landau. How are all our friends in Maidstone. Tell them I have not forgot them hoping they have not forgot us altogether in the way of writing. Remember us to all who enquire. Hoping to hear from you soon believe me, My Dear Grandmother, your affectionate granddaughter,

Kate M. Hamilton